

**TWO NEW RECORDS OF AUSTRALIAN *TRIATOMA* LAPORTE
(HEMIPTERA: REDUVIIDAE: TRIATOMINAE)**

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Abstract

Two additional specimens of *Triatoma leopoldi* (Schouteden, 1933) are recorded from Australia together with photographs of a living specimen.

Introduction

Monteith (1974) recorded three males of *Triatoma novaeguineae* Miller, 1958 taken at mercury vapour light on the banks of the East Claudie River (12.714°S, 143.287°E), Iron Range area (now within Kutini-Payamu NP) in Cape York Peninsula, that being the first record of this medically important group of blood-feeding insects from Australia.



Figs 1-2. Living male of *Triatoma leopoldi* (Schouteden) collected at East Claudie River in December 2010: (1) dorsal view; (2) lateral view showing rostrum – R. (Photographs by Eric Vanderduys).

Monteith (1974) also suggested that the species may be a junior synonym of *Triatoma leopoldi* (Schouteden, 1933) and this was implemented in the world revision of the subfamily by Lent and Wygodzinsky (1979). Outside Australia, the species is known from the islands of New Guinea, Biak and Sulawesi (Lent and Wygodzinsky 1979, Maldonado Capriles 1990). All Triatominae are vertebrate blood feeders (Lent and Wygodzinsky 1979, Justi *et al.* 2014) and the listing of the species as ‘arthropod-feeder, predator’ by Cassis and Gross (1995) is a lapsus.

A recent review of the potential for transmission of Chagas’ disease (caused by the parasitic protozoan *Trypanosoma cruzi* Chagas) in Australia (Jackson *et al.* 2014) estimated 1,928 infected residents in 2011 and noted the presence of *T. leopoldi* as a potential Australian vector.

New records

Two more male specimens have been collected at MV light in the Iron Range area, both lodged in the Queensland Museum, as follows: East Claudie River, 12.714°S, 143.287°E, 8-16.xii.2010, Monteith & Escalona; West Claudie River, 12.739°S, 143.256°E, 28.xi.1986, G. Daniels & M. Schneider. The West Claudie River locality is 4 km SW of the East Claudie locality. Both are in lowland rainforest. Females have yet to be collected in Australia. The 2010 specimen was photographed alive by Eric Vanderduys and these are reproduced with thanks to enable collectors to recognise this important species (Figs 1-2). The distinctive colour and straight rostrum held close to the underside of the head (Fig. 2) allows separation from other Australian assassin bugs which have the rostrum curved away from the head underside. Males are 19-20 mm in length. Overseas, females reach 23 mm.

References

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